

# Great Mystery Books at the Pleasanton Public Library

Compiled by the Pleasanton Library  
Children’s Staff



Books are shelved in  
*Children’s Fiction or  
Children’s Young Teen Fiction*  
by author’s last name  
and/or  
*Children’s Paperbacks or  
Children’s Young Teen Paperbacks*  
by first letter of author’s last name  
(unless otherwise noted).

Please ask at the Children’s Desk  
if you need help.

**Down the Rabbit Hole** by Peter Abrahams



Grades 6-8 (375 p) (J Young Teen) *Audiobook available  
Echo Falls Mystery series*

Like her idol, Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her hometown Echo Falls.

**The Wolves of Willoughby Chase** by Joan Aiken

Grades 4-6 (168 p)

Left in the care of a wicked, scheming governess, two cousins endure a perilous flight through the snow in the dark of night.



**The Lost Treasure of the Golden Sun** by Carol A. Amato

Grades 4-7 (172 p)

Anny, who has psychic powers and her twin sister Scout visit their friend Ben, a Navajo Indian, and try to solve the mystery of a lost Spanish treasure.

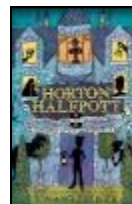
**The Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen** by M.T. Anderson

Grades 4-7 (243 p) *Sequel to Whales on Stilts*

Looking forward to a vacation, Katie, Lily, and Jasper attach their flying Gyroscopic Sky Suite to the Moose Tongue Lodge and Resort, where they mingle with other child heroes found in books, and where they become embroiled in a mystery involving lederhosen-clothed quintuplets and a screaming ventriloquist.



**Horton Halfpott** by Tom Angleberger



Grades 4-7 (206 p) *Audiobook available*

Horton, an upstanding kitchen boy in a castle in nineteenth-century England, becomes embroiled in a mystery surrounding a series of thefts, which is also connected to the pursuit of a very eligible and wealthy young lady’s affections.

**Who Stole the Wizard of Oz** by Avi

Grades 4-6 (116 p)

Becky and her brother use some ingenious clues to identify the person who stole five valuable children’s books from the town’s library.

**Chasing Vermeer** by Blue Balliett

Grades 5-8 (254 p) *Audiobook available*

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.



**Secret of the Underground Room** by John Bellairs

Grades 5-7 (127 p)

When Father Higgins disappears, Johnny Dixon and Professor Childermass discover disturbing clues which lead them to England and an encounter with a long-dead knight.



**The Silver Balloon** by Susan Bonners

Grades 2-4 (71 p) (J Moving Up)

When fourth-grader, Gregory, releases a helium-filled balloon into the sky with his name and address attached, it leads to an unusual friendship and an exchange of mystery gifts.

**The Name of This Book is Secret** by Pseudonymous Bosch



Grades 5-8 (360 p) *Audiobook available  
Secret series*

Two eleven-year-old misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are searching for the secret of immortality.

**Shakespeare’s Secret** by Elise Broach



Grades 4-7 (250 p) *Audiobook available*

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

**Coffin on a Case** by Eve Bunting

Grades 4-6 (105 p)

Twelve-year-old Henry Coffin, the son of a private investigator, helps a gorgeous high school girl in her dangerous attempt to find her kidnapped mother.

**The Hideout** by Eve Bunting

Grades 5-7 (133 p)

Feeling unloved by his mother and new stepfather, Andy hides out in a luxurious San Francisco hotel and stages his own kidnapping in order to obtain ransom money to pay for a trip to England to see his father.



**Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island** by Eve Bunting



Grades 5-8 (136 p)

When he offends the toughest gang in his San Francisco school, Danny tries to elude them by going to Alcatraz only to find himself and a Park Service employee trapped by the gang in an old prison cell block.

**Skeleton Creek** by Patrick Carman

Grades 6-8 (185 p) *Skeleton Creek series*



Although housebound following an eerie accident, teenaged Ryan continues to investigate the strange occurrences in his hometown of Skeleton Creek, recording his findings in a journal and viewing email video clips sent by fellow detective Sarah. *Note: The reader may view Sarah’s videos on a website by using links and passwords found in the text.*

**Utterly Me, Clarice Bean** by Lauren Child

Grades 3-5 (190 p) *Clarice Bean series*

When someone steals the winner's trophy for the school book project, Clarice emulates her favorite book heroine, Ruby Redfort the detective.



**We the Children** by Andrew Clements



Grades 3-6 (142 p) *Audiobook available*

*Benjamin Pratt and the Keepers of the School series*  
Sixth-grader Ben Pratt’s life is full of changes that he does not like — his parents’ separation and the plan to demolish his seaside school to build an amusement park — but when the school janitor gives him a tarnished coin with some old engravings and then dies, Ben is drawn into an effort to keep the school from being destroyed.

**Half Moon Investigations** by Eoin Colfer

Grades 4-7 (290 p) *Audiobook available*

Framed for a serious crime, 12-year-old Fletcher Moon has only 12 hours to find the guilty party and clear his name.



**The Governor’s Dog is Missing!**

by Sneed B. Collard III

Grades 4-7 (174 p) *Slate Stephens Mysteries series*

Slate Stephens and Daphne McSweeney are trying to find Cat, the missing dog of the Governor of Montana.



## Popular Mystery Series

Most are shelved in J Paperbacks by first letter of series title.  
(may also be shelved in J Fiction by author’s last name)

**A to Z Mysteries** by Ron Roy

Grades 2-4

**American Girl History Mysteries** by various authors

Grades 3-6

**Boxcar Children** by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Grades 3-6

**Cam Jansen** by David Adler

Grades 1-3

**Capital Mysteries** by Ron Roy

Grades 2-4

**Chet Gecko Mysteries** by Bruce Hale

Grades 3-5

**Encyclopedia Brown** by Donald Sobol

Grades 3-6

**Hardy Boys** by Franklin W. Dixon

Grades 4-6

**High-Rise Private Eyes** by Cynthia Rylant (JE Rylant)

Grades K-2

**Jigsaw Jones Mysteries** by James Preller

Grades 1-3

**Nancy Drew: Girl Detective** by Carolyn Keene

Grades 4-6

**Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew** by Carolyn Keene

Grades 2-4

**Nate the Great** by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (JE Sharmat)

Grades K-2

**National Park Mysteries** by Gloria Skurzynski

Grades 5-7

**Sammy Keyes** by Wendelin Van Draanan (J Paperbacks “V”)

Grades 4-7

**Secret Agent Jack Stalwart** by Elizabeth Hunt (J Paperbacks “S”)

Grades 3-5

**Sly the Sleuth** by Donna Jo Napoli (J Moving Up)

Grades 2-4

**Stevie Diamond Mysteries** by Linda Bailey

Grades 4-6

**Three Investigators** by Robert Arthur (J Paperbacks “T”)

Grades 5-8

**Young Cam Jansen** by David Adler (JE Adler)

Grades K-2

Pleasanton Public Library  
Children’s Services  
400 Old Bernal Ave.  
Pleasanton, California 94566

(925) 931-3400

Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.



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**The Big House** by Carolyn Coman  
Grades 4-6 (220 p)  
When Ivy and Ray’s parents are sent to jail, and left in the custody of their parent’s accusers, they decide to look for evidence that will “spring” their parents.

**The Trouble with Chickens** by Doreen Cronin  
Grades 3-5 (119 p) *J.J. Tully Mystery series*  
A humorous story of a hard-bitten former search-and-rescue dog helping to solve a complicated missing chicken case.

**Mr. Chickee’s Funny Money** by Christopher Paul Curtis  
Grades 3-6 (151 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sequel: Mr. Chickee’s Messy Mission*  
Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell's huge dog Zoopy solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it.

**The London Eye Mystery** by Siobhan Dowd  
Grades 6-8 (322 p) (J Young Teen) *Audiobook available*  
When Ted and Kat’s cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together — Ted with his brain that is “wired differently” and impatient Kat — to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

**The Case of the Cat with the Missing Ear**  
collected and edited by Scott Emerson  
Grades 4-6 (237 p)  
In 1887, in a San Francisco populated by dogs, retired veterinarian Dr. Edward R. Smithfield and his friend, Mr. Samuel Blackthorne, attempt to solve the mysterious disappearance of an unassuming accountant.

**Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery** by John Feinstein  
Grades 6-8 (251 p) (J Young Teen) *Audiobook available*  
After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth-graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

**Mary Moon is Missing** by Patricia Reilly Giff  
Grades 3-5 (74 p) (J Moving Up)  
*Adventures of Minnie and Max*  
Assisted by her cat, Max, and her friend Cash, Minnie tries to find Mary Moon, a valuable racing pigeon that has disappeared just before a big race.

**Cat Among Pigeons** by Julia Golding  
Grades 5-8 (368 p) *A Cat Royal Adventure series*  
Catherine “Cat” Royal, an orphan who lives at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790’s London, rallies her friends to try to save Pedro from the clutches of Mr. Hawkins, a slavemaster who considers Pedro his property.

**Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer** by John Grisham  
Grades 6-8 (263 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer series*  
With two attorneys for parents, thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone knows more about the law than most lawyers do. But when a high profile murder trial comes to his small town and Theo gets pulled into it, it's up to this amateur attorney to save the day.

**The House on the Gulf** by Margaret Haddix  
Grades 5-8 (201 p)  
A sixteen-year-old boy arranges a house-sitting job for the summer, but he starts acting strangely after his family moves in, and his sister begins to suspect they are not supposed to be there.

**Closed for the Season** by Mary Downing Hahn  
Grades 5-8 (182 p) (J Young Teen) *Audiobook available*  
When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.

**The Malted Falcon: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye** by Bruce Hale  
Grades 3-5 (107 p) *Chet Gecko Mystery series*  
Fourth-grader Chet Gecko and his partner Natalie try to find a missing valentine and the winning ticket to a fantastic dessert.

**Time Stops for No Mouse** by Michael Hoeye  
Grades 5-8 (250 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Hermux Tantamoq series*  
Watchmaker Hermux Tantamoq is caught up in a world of danger as he searches for Linka Perflinger, an aviatrix mouse, who disappears after bringing in a watch for repairs.

**To Scratch a Thief** by Holm & Hamel  
Grades 4-6 (131 p) *Stink Files series*  
An enemy from Mr. Stink's past is targeting his new suburban family, and the international cat of mystery must discover the identity of his nemesis and defeat him.

**The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn** by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler  
Grades 6-8 (214 p) (J Young Teen)  
*Sequel: The Demon in the Teahouse*  
While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant’s son who longs to be a Samurai, joins a group of Kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

**The Falcon’s Malteser** by Anthony Horowitz  
Grades 5-8 (191 p) *Diamond Brothers Mystery series*  
After his older brother, a fledgling private detective, agrees to safeguard a package for a dwarf who does not live long, thirteen-year-old Nick scampers to solve the mystery while also trying to stay one step ahead of an assortment of thugs.

**Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz  
Grades 6-9 (192 p) (J Young Teen) *Audiobook available*  
*Alex Rider series*  
After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle’s dangerous work for Britain’s intelligence agency.

**Bunnacula** by Deborah and James Howe  
Grades 4-6 (98 p) *First in a series*  
*Audiobook available*  
Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their founding baby bunny must be a vampire.

**Hoofbeats of Danger** by Holly Hughes  
Grade 4-6 (130 p) *American Girl History Mystery series*  
In 1860, eleven-year-old Annie, who lives at the Red Buttes Pony Express station in the Nebraska Territory, asks Pony Express rider Billy Cody to help her find the person responsible for sabotaging her favorite pony, Magpie.

**Minerva Clark Goes to the Dogs** by Karen Karbo  
Grades 5-8 (211 p) *Minerva Clark series*  
Still enjoying her new found self-confidence, a thirteen-year-old sleuth in Portland, Oregon, tries to uncover a missing red diamond and gets herself mixed up with a crooked animal shelter worker and some very strange animals.

**Regarding the Fountain** by Kate Klise  
Grades 4-6 (138 p) *Regarding the — series*  
A fifth grade class uncovers a scandal when they become involved in the plans to purchase a new drinking fountain for their school.

**From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E. L. Konigsburg  
Grades 4-7 (179 p)  
A girl and her younger brother run away from home and take up residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where they come across a beautiful and mysterious statue. Determined to discover its maker, they first have to find the statue’s former owner, the reclusive and mischievous Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, and then sort through her incredibly mixed up files.

**Death Cloud: Sherlock Holmes, the Legend Begins** by Andrew Lane  
Grades 6-8 (311 p) (J Young Teen)  
In 1868, with his army officer father suddenly posted in India, and his mother mysteriously “unwell,” fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder and a diabolical villain.

**Dog Days** by David Lubar  
Grades 4-6 (78 p)  
Long, lazy days of summer, dog days, have come at last. Larry looks forward to the two things he loves most: playing baseball and taking care of his three dogs. Then his little brother Paul interrupts the fun by dragging Larry to the scene of a mystery.

**Eye of the Crow** by Shane Peacock  
Grades 6-8 (251 p) (J Young Teen)  
*Boy Sherlock Holmes series*  
In 1867, Sherlock Holmes, an impoverished young outcast with a Jewish father and highborn mother, visits the scene of a woman’s brutal murder, where he meets a wrongly accused young Arab and becomes a suspect himself.

**The Westing Game** by Ellen Raskin  
Grades 5-8 (185 p) *Audiobook available*  
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

**The Maze of Bones** by Rick Riordan  
Grades 5-8 (220 p) *Audiobook available*  
*The 39 Clues series*  
At the reading of their grandmother’s will, Dan and Amy Cahill are given the choice of receiving a million dollars

or uncovering the 39 clues hidden around the world that will lead to the source of the family’s power, but by taking on the clues, they end up in a dangerous race against their own family members.

**From Charlie’s Point of View** by Richard Scrimger  
Grades 6-8 (278 p) (J Young Teen)  
Best friends Bernadette and Charlie begin seventh grade and help unravel the mysterious case of the Stocking Bandit.

**Finding Lubchenko** by Michael Simmons  
Grades 7-9 (280 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sequel: The Rise of Lubchenko*  
When his father is framed for murder and bioterrorism, high-school junior Evan, using clues from a stolen laptop, travels from Seattle to Paris with two friends to find the real culprit.

**Secret of the Three Treasures** by Janni Lee Simner  
Grades 3-5 (134 p)  
While pretending to be the heroine of her father's adventure novels, Tiernay discovers new friends, buried Revolutionary War treasure, and answers to a long-ago mystery.

**The Egypt Game** by Zilpha Keatly Snyder  
Grades 4-6 (215 p) *Audiobook available* — *Sequel: The Gypsy Game*  
A band of children are unaware of the role they will play in the search for a murderer when they invent a secret and elaborate game of ancient Egypt.

**The Case of the Missing Marquess** by Nancy Springer  
Grades 5-8 (216 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Enola Holmes Mystery series*  
Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

**Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief** by Wendelin Van Draanen  
Grades 4-7 (168 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sammy Keyes series*  
Thirteen-year-old Sammy’s penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the “seedy” hotel across the street from the seniors’ building where she is living with her grandmother.

**The Secret of the Skeleton Key** by Penny Warner  
Grades 3-5 (209 p) *Code Busters Club series*  
Using their code-breaking skills, four middle-schoolers solve the mystery of the eccentric man who draws stick figures on his second-floor bedroom window.

**Belle Prater’s Boy** by Ruth White  
Grades 5-7 (196 p) *Audiobook available*  
*Sequel: The Search for Belle Prater*  
When Woodrow’s mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents’ home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears of their lives.

**The Case of the Goblin Pearls** by Laurence Yep  
Grades 4-7 (179 p) *Chinatown Mystery series*  
Lily and her aunt, a Chinese American movie actress, join forces to solve the theft of some priceless pearls and stop the operator of a sweatshop in San Francisco’s Chinatown.